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Items 37 and 80 of the preliminary list*

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 8 July 1992 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour, on behalf of the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to transmit to you the text of an address by the Heads of State of the Baltic countries to the Heads of State and Governments of the Baltic Sea States, to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the United Nations. This document was signed on the occasion of the meeting of the three Baltic leaders in Tallinn, Estonia, on 26 June 1992 (see annex).

* A/47/50.

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We would appreciate it if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 37 and 80 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Estonia to the
United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Latvia to the
United Nations

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Lithuania to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Council of the Baltic States

Address by the Heads of State of the Baltic countries to the Heads of State and Governments of the Baltic Sea States, to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the United Nations

During the first years following the Second World War, the Soviet Union buried in the Baltic Sea hundreds of thousands of tons of poisonous materials intended for military use. The largest part of these is buried on the boundaries of the territorial waters of Latvia and Lithuania. The leakage of poisonous substances through the corrosion of these containers, shells and airplane bombs (which has already been noticed) is a real threat to the life and health of millions of people and threatens all life in the Baltic Sea. The consequences of the above-mentioned potential catastrophe are unpredictable also for the North Sea Basin and the countries surrounding it.

To prevent an ecological catastrophe, the Council of the Baltic States turns to the Heads of State and Governments of the Baltic Sea States, but above all to Russia which has, according to the Charter of the United Nations, stated that, as the successor to the Soviet Union, it takes upon itself all rights and duties of the former USSR, and to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the United Nations Organization, with the proposal and appeal to form a special international commission of experts under the aegis of the Council of the Baltic Sea States to study as rapidly as possible this extremely dangerous ecological situation; and, during the last week of September 1992 - on the International Day of the Sea - to convene a conference to resolve this problem with the participation of all interested States, if possible with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)
Arnold RUUTEL	Anatolijs GORBUNOVS	Vytautas LANDSBERGIS
Chairman of the Supreme Council Republic of Estonia	Chairman of the Supreme Council Republic of Latvia	President of the Supreme Council Republic of Lithuania

Tallinn, 26 June 1992